

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, independent claims 8 and 12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 were previously cancelled. Claims 9-11 are currently sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 8 and 12 have been amended to correct minor errors included therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejection claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,940 to Liddy *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,608 to Kupiec. By virtue of the foregoing amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 9-11 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Applicant notes that claims 9-11 have been cancelled solely to expedite issuance of allowed claims 8 and 12, and the cancellation of these claims does not indicate acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection or the reasons provided therefor.

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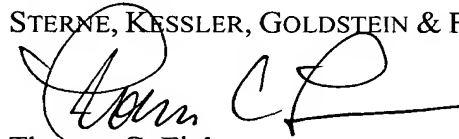
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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